

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because Figure 1 should be labeled --PRIOR ART--.

The drawings are also objected to under the Rules because they do not include reference character "r".

In response, a Submission of Corrected Sheets of the Drawings is being filed concurrently herewith in which reference character "r" and the legend --PRIOR ART-- have been added to Figure 1. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the objections to the drawings have been overcome.

Specification

The specification is objected to because of minor informalities noted by the Examiner. The specification has been amended to attend to any informalities, including those kindly identified by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claims Status

Claims 1 through 10 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 7, and 10 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claim 1 is the only independent claim pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 2 through 4, 6, and 7 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. The claims remain in their dependent form, inasmuch as it is believed that Claim 1 from which they depend will be found to be allowable.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 through 15 are objected to for the reasons succinctly set forth in the Official Action. In response, Claims 1, 6, 7, and 10 have been amended *inter alia* to overcome the grounds of the objection. It is respectfully submitted that the objection has been overcome.

Art Rejections

Claims 1, 8, and 10 through 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,345,166 (Sakaizawa, et al.).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakaizawa, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,324,884 (Honda, et al.).

The rationale underlying each of the foregoing art rejections is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Art Rejections

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 calls for a developing apparatus that includes a developer carrying member for carrying a developer to develop an electrostatic latent image formed on an image bearing member, the developer carrying member having an elastic property;

scraping/supplying member, contacted into the developer carrying member, for supplying the developer to the developer carrying member and for scraping the developer off the developer carrying member, the scraping/supplying member having an elastic property. The developer carrying member has a hardness which is higher than that of the scraping/supplying member, and wherein the developer carrying member and the scraping/supplying member satisfy that in a state in which the scraping/supplying member is out of contact with the developer carrying member, a radius of curvature of the scraping/supplying member is larger than a radius of curvature of the developer carrying member at a position of contact between the scraping/supplying member and the developer carrying member.

Sakaizawa, et al. discloses that elastic roller 9 has an external diameter of 16 mm. See column 9, lines 23 and 24. Sakaizawa, et al. also discloses that developing roller 8 also has an external diameter of 16 mm. See column 10, lines 4 through 8.

The Examiner recognizes that Sakaizawa, et al. does not disclose a radius of curvature of a scraping/supplying member (roller 9) to be larger than a radius of curvature of a developer carrying member (roller 8) at a position of contact between the scraping/supplying member and the developer carrying member.

The Examiner takes the position that since the scraping/supplying (roller 9) is made of material that is softer than the material used for the developing carrying member (roller 8), the former will deform more at a contact position therebetween. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the radius of curvature of the scraping/supplying member (roller 9) is larger than the radius of curvature of the developer carrying member (roller 8) at the position of contact

therebetween. This conclusion is not understood. Since both rollers in Sakaizawa, et al. have the same diameter, they both have the same radius of curvature. When roller 9 is deformed as noted by the Examiner, it would not have a larger radius than it had before being deformed. Rather, the deformed “effective radius” of roller 9 would be smaller than the radius of contacting roller 8. Therefore, the conclusion that Sakaizawa, et al. renders the claimed relationship between radii of the rollers does not follow.

Moreover, in the claimed invention, the radii are defined in terms of a state in which the scraping/supplying member is out of contact with the developer carrying member. As above-noted, the Examiner’s argument is based on the rollers being in contact with each other.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Sakaizawa, et al. does not disclose or suggest the claimed relationship between the radii of the rollers; and that independent Claim 1 is allowable over Sakaizawa, et al.

Dependent Claims

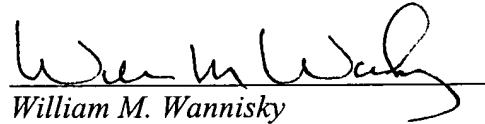
Claims 2 through 10 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicants’ invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Wm M Wannisky", written over a horizontal line.

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